

**WESTERN EMERGENCY SERVICE AREA
PO BOX 350
72440 MILO FRITZ AVENUE
ANCHOR POINT, AK 99556-0350
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 26,2025
18:00 HOURS**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Dawson Slaughter called the meeting to order at 18:03 hours.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Fire Chief, Jon Marsh led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Dawson Slaughter, Seat B; Mark Ball, Seat C; Katherine Covey, Seat D; Janice Nofziger, Seat E

Staff Members Present: Jon Marsh, Chief; Cassie Parkinson, FF Tech/ Acting Secretary;

Absent: Rob Mathis, Deputy Chief

Visitors: KPB Assemblyman, Brent Johnson; Judy Johnson

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Discussion: Chief Marsh asked the Board about Board Training that was requested at the last meeting. There was nothing to add to the Agenda for this.

 M Ball / **K Covey** moved and seconded to approve the Agenda, as written.

 4 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent Motion Passed

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, Regular Board Meeting, January 15, 2025.

Discussion: None

 M Ball / **K Covey** moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting as written.

 4 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent Motion Passed

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Comments:

Mr Brent Johnson commented about attending the CES meeting, due to staffing issues for CES and WES. Mr Johnson feels that CES's staffing issues mirror the same issues that WES is experiencing. There is an expectation that CES will be requesting additional FF positions.

REPORTS

A. Chief's Report ~ Jon Marsh, Chief:

Key Points: AEMT class has finished and participants are scheduling testing. We have a Fire Instructor 1 class scheduled. Currently a Support Firefighter is being taught by DC Rob Mathis. This is a pilot class. KESA is starting a Firefighter 1 class in March and we may be sending some new volunteers. EMT Instructor class is starting in the Spring. It will be a hybrid class.

The previous 12 months' EMS billing collection rate through December 2024 is 64%. \$384,517.93 total charges for the year. \$212,8747.74 in payments, with pending charges of \$73,316.18.

2025 Calls for Assistance: 98 ytd, with 81 calls since last meeting.

B. Deputy Chief's Report ~ Grants:

Nothing new to report since last meeting.

C. SREMSC / KPESI Report ~:

None.

PENDING BUSINESS & FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST MEETING

A. FY26 Budget Approval: Chief asked if there was any input on accomplishments and initiatives that the Board would like to see added. Capital Project requests were discussed. The 5 year plan was explained. There was discussion on the need for new ambulances, but the inability to find funding for them. Chairman Slaughter asked about PILT money being available for this. There was discussion of grants and legislative priorities. Equipment replacement standards don't make sense for us. Any questions on Capital? Quick recap on transport/subsistence worksheet. Any questions? Look over revenue page. There was discussion of other revenues: ambulance billing, SEMT money. The Board had questions on mil rates and projections.

Chief discussed the budget documents, page by page with the Board. Presented detailed operating budget and explanation for changes.

Chief presented the initial budget he had prepared, then presented the budget with three extra positions that Finance had told him to build. There was discussion about increases, how this may affect the mil rate and what the projection is for out years. There was much discussion about positions, wages and overtime. The Board discussed the ongoing battle for more staffing and positions, and what they should recommend. Chief Marsh asked the board what they would like to do and what they would like to request. There was much discussion on the need for more staffing and volunteers.

Chairman, Dawson Slaughter suggested moving forward with 3 positions and having the justification and the explanations for why the service area is in need of these positions. Chief Marsh reminded the Board that the Budget meeting with the Mayor is on March 20th at 10:00 a.m. and requested that at least two Board Members attend this meeting with him.

Chairman, Dawson Slaughter stated he will be able to attend and Katherine Covey was requested to attend as well.

 M Ball / J Nofziger moved and seconded to approve submittal of the final drafted FY26 WES Budget with the addition of the 3 positions and sufficient Overtime funding to backfill the additional positions.

4 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

Motion Passed

NEW BUSINESS

A. No New Business:

INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL

Expense report
Chief's Report
Deputy Chief's Grant Report
FY26 Western Emergency Budget Documents

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

BOARD COMMENTS

Seat A; Vacant: No comments

Seat B; Chair, Dawson Slaughter: Thank you to all for attending.

Seat C; Vice Chair, Mark Ball: No comments

Seat D; Katherine Covey: No comments.

Seat E; Janice Nofziger: No comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

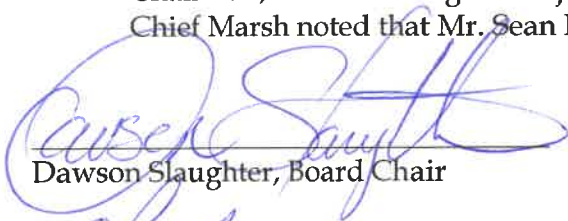
NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Discussion: The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for March 12. There is a scheduling conflict for some Board members. Can we move the meeting to Tuesday or Thursday for attendance? Rescheduling to Thursday, March 13th was agreed upon.

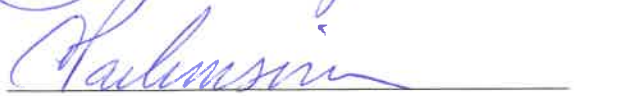
Thursday, March 13, 2025 will be the next scheduled meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman, Dawson Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 19:30. Thanking all for their attendance. Chief Marsh noted that Mr. Sean Kelly will be at the March Board meeting.


Dawson Slaughter, Board Chair

03/11/2025
Date Approved


Cassie Parkinson, Acting Secretary WES Board

03/11/2025
Date Approved